Demand of Export Promotion Councils

254. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that various Export Promotion Counil urged Government to remove the ceiling on the value of exports under the Duty Drawback Scheme to give boost to textiles;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what are the other demands/requests made by the Export Promotion Councils; and

(d) whether the Councils have requested for reviewing of the system of Inter-Ministerial Group to look into the various problems faced by exporters?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Suggestions were received from various Export Promotion Councils *inter-alia* for removal of value caps under duty drawback scheme as the value caps on admissibility of duty drawback benefits discourage exports of value added textile items from the country. The other suggestions include upward revision in duty drawback rates of garments made of cotton, man-made and other materials; cotton made-ups, glass artware, restoration of duty drawback rates for aluminium artware and Electroplated Nickle Silverware (EPNS), etc.

(d) Yes, Sir.

MBT Arjun

† 255. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that indigenously developed main battle tank 'Arjun' has not been found to be upto the mark in the test;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is possible to develop Arjun tanks upto the mark;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, what is the alternative?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.